(b) The targets for export of tea and coffee for the year 1996-97 is are follows :

Tea	180 Million Kg.
Coffee	1,50,000 tonne.

(c) Steps taken by Coffee Board to boost exports include:

(i) regular participation in important coffee fairs abroad;

(ii) media publicity campaign to popularise Indian coffee besides production of a T.V. film on Indian coffee.

(iii) regular market survey and deputation of business negotiation/delegation to foreign markets; and

(iv) inviting foreign market teams to the country to popularise Indian coffee.

Steps taken by Tea Board to boost exports through promotional campaigns by the Board's office consist of (i) participation in trade fairs/exhibitions; (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness of unique characteristics of Indian tea; (iii) media campaign to popularise Indian tea through the Tea Board marketing symbol; and (iv) support to various foreign brand containing Indian tea. Tea Board has also undertaken 'Darjeeling' 'Assam' Logo campaign in U.K. along with brand promotion schemes abroad to popularise classic Indian teas.

[English]

Renovation of Cycle Corporation

5721. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to formulate any plan for modernisation/renovation of the Cycle Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). In its last hearing, BIFR had formed a *primafacie* opinion that Cycle Corporation of India Limited (CCIL) was not viable on long term basis. Further proceedings of BIFR have been stayed by the Calcutta High Court and the matter is *sub-judice.*

Export of Cement

5722. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for the export of cement during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the export of cement during the above plan is as per the targets till now;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). While no specific target for export of cement during the Eighth Plan has been fixed, export of cement/clinker has been increasing during the last few years, except in 1995-96 when there was a decline mainly due to higher demand in the domestic market. The year-wise export of cement/clinker is as under :

Year	Export (Million Tonnes)
1992-93	1.18
1993-94	2.85
1994-95	3.17
1995-96	2.38

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Evasion of Excise Duty

5723. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI RAMSAGAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central excise revenue is being evaded by the manufacturers with impunity in large number of cases and the central excise authorities do not seem to be serious about that;

(b) if so, the number of assessment of the central excise revenue evasion during 1995 been made and if so, how much does it work out; and

(c) the steps taken or propose to be taken by the Government to strengthen the central excise department to check such evasion by undertaking more number of visits to the manufacturers ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). It is not true that Central Excise authorities are not serious in detecting evasion of central excise duty by manufacturers. 5566 cases involving central excise duty of the order of Rs. 1276.16 crores have been booked by the Central Excise Department during the year 1995.

The Central Excise Department has stepped up preventive activities to curb evasion of central excise duty. As a result, gathering of intelligence, surprise checks of production and clearance, and transit checks have been intensified with a view to preventing clandestine manufacture and removal of excisable goods.

Provision for charging interest on delayed payment of duty, imposition of mandatory penalty equal to the central excise duty evaded and introduction of self assessment and selective audit are some of the legislative changes aimed at discouraging evasion of cenral excise duty by manufacturers.

[English]

Panel for Disinvestment

5724. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Disinvestment Commission is likely to study and suggest steps to improve the working of sick public sector units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps being taken to make sick units viable?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Sick Public Sector Industrial units are referred to BIFR for formulation of their revival/rehabilitation packages. In respect of other loss making units, enterprises specific measures are taken by the concerned management in consultation with the administrative Ministries to improve their efficiency, productivity and profitability.

Investment made by STC in Sugar Deals

5725. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of funds invested by State Trading Corporation in sugar deals during each of the last three years;

(b) the achievements made by STC thereof; and

(c) the projections made or plan formulated by STC for sale/export of sugar during 1996-97 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No investments were made by STC on sugar business during the last thre years. L/C limits were, however, used by the Corporation for import of sugar.

(b) The total imports and exports of sugar made through STC during the last 3 years were as follows :

Import	(Quantity MTS)	
1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
—	—	4,70,685
Export		
13,585	46,565	35,000

(c) No projection has been fomulated by STC for import export of sugar during 1996-97. STC undertakes these operations on the authorisations of the Government.

[Translation]

National Renewal Fund

5726. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up National Renewal Fund to give assistance for training of workers; and

(b) if so, the number of personnels belonging to general category, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes trained so far separately ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. According to the information available from the nodal agencies that have set up Employees Assistance Centres for counselling, retraining and redeployment of rationalised workers with the assistance from the National Renewal Fund, 11,752 workers have availed of retraining as on 31st July, 1996. The details of number of workers belonging to general category, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not centrally maintained.

[English]

Regional Centre for Design and Technical Development

5727. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the name and location of each regional centre for design and technical development;

(b) the total number of designs dealt with in each regional centre during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(c) the percentage of designs accepted by the trade during the above period;

(d) whether any evaluation of technical wings of these centres has been made;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The location of Regional Design & Technical Development Centre run by the Government is as under :

1. Regional Design & Technical Development Centre, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi.
2. Regional Design & Technical Development Centre, (Design Wing), Churct Street, Bangalore.
3. Regional Design & Technical Development Centre, (Technical Wing), Victoria Road, Bangalore.